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General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly*

To convene at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 15 September 2009, at 3 p.m.

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly (rule 31).
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation (rule 62).
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly (rule 28):
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly (rule 30).
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees (rules 30 and 103).
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly (rule 30).
7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee (rule 21).
8. General debate (resolution 57/301 and decision 63/553).

A. Maintenance of international peace and security

9. Report of the Security Council (rule 13 (b)).
10. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (resolution 60/180).
11. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies (resolution 62/7).
12. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict (resolution 63/134).

* Issued in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure.

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13. Prevention of armed conflict.[1]

14. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development.[1]

15. The situation in the Middle East (resolutions 63/30 and 63/31).

16. Question of Palestine (resolutions 63/26 to 63/29).

17. The situation in Afghanistan (resolution 63/18).

18. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.[1]

19. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte (item proposed by the Comoros (A/64/143)).

20. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (resolution 63/7).

21. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (resolutions 63/19 and 63/301).

22. Question of Cyprus (resolution 58/316).[2]

23. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (resolution 58/316).[2]

24. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (resolution 58/316).[2]

25. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (resolution 58/316).[2]

26. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security (resolution 58/316).[2]

27. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait (resolution 58/316).[2]

28. University for Peace (resolution 61/108).

29. Assistance in mine action (resolution 62/99).

30. Effects of atomic radiation (resolution 63/89).

31. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (resolution 63/90).

32. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (resolutions 63/91 to 63/94).

33. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (resolutions 63/95 to 63/99).

34. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (resolution 63/280).

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[1] This item, which has not yet been considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, remains on the agenda of that session. Its inclusion in the draft agenda of the sixty-fourth session is subject to any action the Assembly may take on it at its sixty-third session.

[2] This item remains on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

35. Questions relating to information (resolutions 63/100 A and B).

36. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (resolution 63/101).

37. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 63/102).

38. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (resolution 63/103).

39. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 63/104).

40. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolutions 63/105 to 63/110 and decision 63/525).

41. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India (decision 63/503 A).

42. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (resolution 63/201).

43. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (resolutions 428 (V), 63/148 and 63/149).

B. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

44. Report of the Economic and Social Council (rule 13 (b); General Assembly resolutions 3281 (XXIX) and 63/8 and Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112).

45. Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin (resolution 61/52).

46. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (resolutions S-26/2 and 60/262).

47. Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal (resolution 62/4).

48. Global road safety crisis (resolution 62/244).

49. 2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa (resolution 63/234).

50. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields (resolutions 60/265, 63/9 and 63/302).

51. Culture of peace (resolutions 63/22 and 63/113).

52. Information and communication technologies for development (resolution 63/202).

53. Macroeconomic policy questions:

    (a) International trade and development (resolutions 1995 (XIX), 62/183 and 63/203);

    (b) International financial system and development (resolution 63/205);

    (c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries (resolution 63/206);

    (d) Commodities (resolution 63/207).

54. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference (resolutions 60/188, 63/208, 63/239 and 63/303).

55. Sustainable development (resolution 63/211):

    (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (resolutions 47/191, 61/192, 61/193, 62/190 and 63/212);

    (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (resolution 63/213);

    (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (resolution 63/216);

    (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations (resolution 63/32);

    (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (resolution 63/218);

    (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (resolution 63/219);

    (g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session (resolutions 2997 (XXVII) and 63/220);

    (h) Sustainable mountain development (resolution 62/196);

    (i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (resolution 62/197).

56. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (resolution 63/221).

57. Globalization and interdependence:

    (a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (resolutions 63/222 to 63/224);

(b) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (resolution 63/226);

(c) Science and technology for development (resolution 62/201).

58. Groups of countries in special situations:

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (resolution 63/227);

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (resolution 63/228).

59. Eradication of poverty and other development issues (resolution 63/142):

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (resolution 63/230);

(b) Women in development (resolutions 59/248 and 62/206);

(c) Human resources development (resolution 62/207).

60. Operational activities for development:

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (decision 63/545);

(b) South-South cooperation for development (resolutions 62/209 and 63/233).

61. Towards global partnerships (resolutions 58/316 and 62/211).

62. Agriculture development and food security (resolution 63/235).

63. Social development (resolutions 62/126, 62/128 and 63/150):

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (resolutions 56/177 and 63/152);

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (resolution 62/129);

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (resolution 63/151).

64. Advancement of women:

(a) Advancement of women (resolutions 34/180, 39/125, 45/124, 62/132, 62/136, 62/218, 63/155, 63/157 and 63/159);

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (resolutions 50/203, 52/100 and 62/137).

C. Development of Africa

65. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:

    (a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support (resolution 63/1);

    (b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (resolution 57/296).

D. Promotion of human rights

66. Report of the Human Rights Council (resolution 60/251).

67. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

    (a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (resolutions 44/25, 62/140, 62/141 and 63/241);

    (b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (decision 63/537).

68. Indigenous issues (resolution 63/161):

    (a) Indigenous issues (decision 63/537);

    (b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (decision 63/537).

69. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:

    (a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (resolutions 2106 A (XX), 3381 (XXX) and 63/162);

    (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (resolution 63/242).

70. Right of peoples to self-determination (resolutions 63/163 and 63/164).

71. Promotion and protection of human rights (resolutions 62/171, 63/173 and 63/192):

    (a) Implementation of human rights instruments (resolutions 2200 A (XXI), 39/46, 63/166 and 63/167);

    (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (resolutions 62/150, 62/152, 62/153, 62/155, 62/158, 62/163, 62/165, 62/166, 63/171, 63/172, 63/176 to 63/182, 63/184 to 63/187 and 63/244);

    (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (resolutions 63/190, 63/191 and 63/245);

    (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (resolutions 48/121 and 48/141).

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

72. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (resolutions 46/182 and 63/138):

    (a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (resolutions 61/220, 63/139 and 63/141);

    (b) Assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 63/140).

73. Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence (resolution 62/96).

F. Promotion of justice and international law

74. Report of the International Court of Justice (rule 13 (b)).

75. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (Security Council resolution 955 (1994) and General Assembly decision 63/505).

76. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (Security Council resolution 827 (1993) and General Assembly decision 63/506).

77. Report of the International Criminal Court (resolution 63/21).

78. Oceans and the law of the sea:

    (a) Oceans and the law of the sea (resolution 63/111);

    (b) Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments (resolutions 61/105 and 63/112).

79. Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission (resolution 63/119).

80. Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-second session (resolution 2205 (XXI)).

81. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (resolution 62/62).

82. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-first session (resolution 63/123).

83. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (resolution 63/127).

84. The rule of law at the national and international levels (resolution 63/128).

G. Disarmament

85. Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (resolutions 1145 (XII) and 63/6).

86. Reduction of military budgets:

(a) Reduction of military budgets (resolution 35/142 B);

(b) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (resolution 62/13).

87. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (resolution 62/14).

88. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (resolution 62/15).

89. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (resolution 62/21).

90. Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (decision 62/512).

91. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (resolution 63/37).

92. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolution 63/38).

93. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (resolution 63/39).

94. Prevention of an arms race in outer space (resolution 63/40).

95. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (decision 63/518).

96. General and complete disarmament:

(a) Notification of nuclear tests (resolution 42/38 C);

(b) Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (resolution 62/24);

(c) Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) (resolution 62/31);

(d) Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes (resolution 62/34);

(e) Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources (resolution 62/46);

(f) Regional disarmament (resolution 63/43);

(g) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels (resolution 63/44);

(h) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context (resolution 63/45);

(i) Nuclear disarmament (resolution 63/46);

(j) Reducing nuclear danger (resolution 63/47);

(k) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (resolution 63/48);

(l) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* (resolution 63/49);

(m) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (resolution 63/50);

(n) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control (resolution 63/51);

(o) Relationship between disarmament and development (resolution 63/52);

(p) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments (resolution 63/58);

(q) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (resolution 63/60);

(r) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus (resolution 63/61);

(s) The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (resolution 63/64);

(t) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas (resolution 63/65);

(u) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them (resolution 63/66);

(v) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (resolution 63/68);

(w) Transparency in armaments (resolution 63/69);

(x) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (resolution 63/72);

(y) Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons (resolution 63/73);

(z) Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms (resolution 63/240);

(aa) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (decision 63/519);

(bb) United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament (decision 63/520).

97. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:

(a) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 63/74);

(b) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (resolution 63/75);

(c) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament (resolution 63/76);

(d) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 63/77);

(e) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (resolution 63/78);

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (resolution 63/80).

98. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session (resolutions 38/183 O and 39/148 H):

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament (resolution 63/82);

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission (resolution 63/83).

99. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (resolution 63/84).

100. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (resolution 63/85).

101. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (resolution 63/86).

102. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (resolution 63/87).

103. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (resolution 63/88).

H. Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

104. Crime prevention and criminal justice (resolutions 63/193 to 63/196).

105. International drug control (resolutions 61/183 and 63/197).

106. Measures to eliminate international terrorism (resolution 63/129).

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

107. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (rules 13 (a) and 48; resolutions 47/120 B and 51/241).

108. Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (resolutions 60/287 and 63/282).

109. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations (rule 49).

110. Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs:

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council (rule 142; decision 63/403);

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council (rule 145; decision 63/404).

111. Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:

(a) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (decisions 63/414 A and B);

(b) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (decision 59/420);

(c) Election of thirty members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (decision 61/417);

(d) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 60/409);

(e) Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 62/406);

(f) Election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (decision 60/421);

(g) Election of two members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (resolutions 60/180 and 63/145 and decision 63/415);

(h) Election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council (decision 62/415).

112. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments:

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (rule 155; decision 63/407);

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions (rule 158; decisions 63/408 A and B);

(c) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee (resolution 155 (II) and decision 63/409);

(d) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors (resolutions 74 (I) and 55/248 and decision 62/411);

(e) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission (resolution 3357 (XXIX) and decision 63/410):

(i) Appointment of members of the Commission;

(ii) Designation of the Vice-Chairman of the Commission;

(f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences (decisions 63/405 A and B);

(g) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit (decision 62/402);

(h) Appointment of members of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (decision 62/414);

(i) Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services (decision 59/418).

113. Admission of new Members to the United Nations (rule 136).

114. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (resolutions 60/265, 62/214, 63/23, 63/281 and 63/302).

115. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 62/272).

116. Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade (resolution 63/5).

117. Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations (decision 63/507).

118. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.[3]

119. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.[3]

120. Strengthening of the United Nations system.[3]

121. United Nations reform: measures and proposals (resolution 55/285).

122. Multilingualism.[1]

123. Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme.[1]

124. Global health and foreign policy (resolution 63/33).

125. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (resolutions 52/212 B and 63/246 A and B):

(a) United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(c) Capital master plan.

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[3] This item remains on the agenda of the sixty-third session. Its inclusion in the draft agenda of the sixty-fourth session is subject to any action the Assembly may take on it at its sixty-third session.

126. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (resolutions 41/213, 63/265, 63/266 and 63/276).

127. Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (resolutions 62/236 to 62/239, 63/259 to 63/264 A to C, 63/269 and 63/270 and decisions 63/550 B and C).

128. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (resolutions 62/236 to 62/239, 63/259 to 63/264 A to C, 63/266 and 63/268).

129. Programme planning (resolution 63/247).

130. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (resolution 47/215).

131. Pattern of conferences (resolutions 63/248 and 63/284).

132. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (resolutions 61/237 and 63/4 and decision 63/550 B).

133. Human resources management (resolutions 63/250 and 63/271).

134. Joint Inspection Unit (resolutions 55/230 and 63/272).

135. United Nations common system (resolution 63/251).

136. Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244, 59/272 and 63/265).

137. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272 (resolution 59/272).

138. Administration of justice at the United Nations (resolution 63/253 and decision 63/531).

139. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (resolutions 55/226, 63/254 and 63/256).

140. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (resolutions 55/225 A, 63/255 and 63/256).

141. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations (resolutions 55/235, 55/236 and 61/243).

142. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (resolutions 49/233, 62/250 to 62/252 and 63/285 to 63/287 and decision 63/550 C).

143. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (resolution 63/288).

144. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (resolution 63/289).

145. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (resolution 63/290).

146. Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (resolution 63/291).

147. Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.[1]

148. Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (resolution 63/292).

149. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (resolutions 63/257 A and B).

150. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (resolution 63/293).

151. Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (resolution 63/294).

152. Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (resolution 63/295).

153. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (resolution 63/296).

154. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East:

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (resolution 63/297);

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (resolution 63/298).

155. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (resolutions 63/273 A and B).

156. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (resolution 63/300).

157. Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (resolutions 63/258 A and B).

158. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (resolutions 63/274 A and B).

159. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (resolution 63/130).

160. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (resolutions 63/275 A and B).

161. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (item proposed by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (A/64/141)).

162. Observer status for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in the General Assembly (item proposed by Switzerland (A/64/142)).

163. Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly (item proposed by the United Republic of Tanzania (A/64/144)).

164. Observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly (item proposed by Italy (A/64/145)).

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Sixty-fourth session
Item 64 of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/155, the present report gives an overview of measures taken by entities of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to eliminate violence against women, including through increased coordination and collaboration among entities and enhanced support for national efforts to address violence against women.

* A/64/150.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	United Nations efforts aimed at achieving greater coordination and collaboration	4
	A. Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015	4
	B. Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women	5
	C. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict	6
	D. United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women	6
	E. Inter-agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking	7
	F. Coordination at the regional level	8
III.	Initiatives on violence against women by entities of the United Nations system in support of national efforts	8
	A. Enhanced capacity to support national efforts	8
	B. Expanding the knowledge base and strengthening data collection and analysis	10
	C. Support for comprehensive legislative and policy development and access to services for victims/survivors	13
	D. Promoting awareness-raising and advocacy	15
	E. Training and capacity-building measures, including the development of tools	16
IV.	Work by intergovernmental bodies on violence against women	17
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	18

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/155 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement Assembly resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and 63/155, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. It updates the report submitted at the sixty-second session of the Assembly (A/62/201) and should be read in conjunction with that report.

2. Since 2006, the General Assembly, in its resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and 63/155 has called upon the United Nations system to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including through: (a) enhanced coordination (61/143, para. 13(a), 62/133, para. 4, 63/155, para. 21); (b) identification of the expected results of the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" (63/155, para. 7); (c) assignment of adequate resources to those bodies responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights (61/143, para. 16), and completion of a resource flow analysis to assess available resources (62/133, para. 6); (d) consideration of ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism (61/143, para. 14, 62/133, para. 5, 63/155, para. 20); (e) enhanced assistance and support to States in their national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (61/143, paras. 9 and 13(b)), 62/133, para. 3, 63/155, para. 17), including support to strengthen national capacities and efforts on the collection, processing and dissemination of data (61/143, para. 12); and (f) development of a coordinated database on violence against women (61/143, para. 19) and development of a set of possible indicators on violence against women (61/143, para. 18, 62/133, para. 7).

3. The report is based on information from 38 entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as six inter-agency efforts of the United Nations system. The information was provided for the inventory of United Nations system activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women,[1] which is compiled by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as part of the activities of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality's Task Force on violence against women. The Division first issued the inventory in July 2007 and compiled updates in January 2008, September 2008 and February 2009. The next update to the inventory will be issued in September 2009. The inventory also provided the basis for the oral reports of the Secretary-General to the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, as requested by Assembly resolutions 62/133 (para. 8) and 63/155 (para. 23).

[1] The consolidated "Inventory of United Nations activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women" is available online at: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/documents/Consolidated%20Inventory%20of%20UN%20activities%20on%20vaw%20(May%202009).pdf.

II. United Nations efforts aimed at achieving greater coordination and collaboration

4. Several key system-wide initiatives described below have ensured continued priority and further impetus within the United Nations system on the issue of violence against women. Spearheaded by the Secretary-General, these efforts have resulted in increased communication, coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities.

A. Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015

5. On 25 February 2008, the Secretary-General launched his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015. The campaign provides a collective platform for an unprecedented level of global mobilization to engage a wide range of stakeholders to end violence against women. The campaign focuses on three areas: global advocacy; strengthened efforts and partnerships at national and regional levels; and United Nations leadership by example. The Secretary-General is calling on Governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, artists, the media, the entire United Nations system and individual women and men to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women.

6. Under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, supported by a high-level steering committee and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, which serves as the secretariat for the campaign, a framework for action and a communications strategy for the campaign have been elaborated. To further operationalize the framework, a campaign strategy has been prepared to provide the basis for mobilizing resources and for building alliances.

7. The framework provides an umbrella for activities by multiple stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels in the course of the multi-year campaign. It identifies five key outcomes as benchmarks for the campaign, to be achieved in all countries by 2015: (a) adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards; (b) adoption and implementation of multisectoral national plans of action that emphasize prevention and that are adequately resourced; (c) establishment of data collection and analysis systems on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls; (d) establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused; and (e) systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war and the full implementation of related laws and policies. United Nations entities are linking a growing range of activities to the campaign.

8. The campaign is contributing to renewed momentum for action to prevent and address all forms of violence against women. In its first year, the campaign focused on advocacy, awareness-raising and mobilizing resources to support various activities. At global level, a campaign logo and poster have been developed and a

campaign website (http://endviolence.un.org) has been launched. Consultations with non-governmental organizations have been held to explore possibilities for partnerships in advancing the campaign, especially at the field level. All stakeholders are invited to register their campaign contributions on the website under the section "What's Happening?". *Mika*, a play written specifically in support of the campaign, was presented to the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General is creating a "network of men leaders" to spearhead advocacy and action at the community, national, regional and global levels. The network includes members from diverse backgrounds, including political, religious and civil society, as well as arts and sports celebrities.

9. The Secretary-General has encouraged the Heads of United Nations entities to actively contribute to the campaign, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has invited Resident Coordinators to lead their country teams to further develop the campaign at the local level. The United Nations information centres, based in over 60 countries, are actively promoting the campaign through a diverse array of activities, such as media workshops, panel discussions, performances, photography and art exhibits, marches and film screenings. The campaign's components for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asian and Pacific region are being defined by the Regional Commissions in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations agencies, leading intergovernmental partners and in consultation with women's and other civil society organizations.

B. Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women

10. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women, co-chaired by UNFPA and the Division for the Advancement of Women, made significant progress in achieving its stated aims. Notable results have been achieved with the joint programming pilot initiative which is proceeding in 10 countries.[2] Baseline assessments, as well as national multi-stakeholder workshops on joint programming to develop multisectoral joint programming frameworks, have been initiated or completed in all 10 countries. In addition, joint national committees consisting of stakeholders from Government, the United Nations and civil society have been formed in all 10 countries. In seven of these countries, joint programming proposals have already been finalized by the national committees. Implementation of joint programming activities, led by UNFPA, has commenced in the Philippines and Rwanda. Activities of the joint programming initiative are linked to the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" at the national level. Based on the lessons learned during the joint programming pilot initiative, work on a Manual/Guideline on joint programming on violence against women is being initiated during 2009.

11. The Task Force enhanced timely information exchange and coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities, including through the inventory of United Nations systems activities. After examining the possibility of undertaking a

[2] Burkina Faso, Chile, Fiji, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda and Yemen.

resource flow analysis on violence against women, the Task Force concluded that its members did not currently have the capacity nor the resources to embark on the necessary methodological and practical work that would be required in order to achieve a useful, reliable and pertinent product. The Task Force completed a revision of its terms of reference and work plan for the biennium 2009-2010, which were approved by the Inter-Agency Network.

C. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict

12. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative mobilized additional resources and promoted joint programming against sexual violence in conflict, including through the creation of a multi-donor trust fund and deployment of specialists in the field. In this regard, a Senior Adviser and Coordinator on Sexual Violence was posted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo where she developed a United Nations system-wide comprehensive strategy on combating sexual violence and mapped existing and planned activities by international actors. A programme manager was recruited for the joint programme of the Government of Liberia and the United Nations to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. The initiative also provided financial support for the recruitment of two United Nations system-wide gender-based violence coordinators in Darfur, the Sudan.

13. The United Nations Action initiative continued to build the knowledge base on sexual violence in conflict-related situations. Research missions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, were undertaken to finalize the "*Analytical Inventory of Responses by Peacekeeping Personnel to War-Related Violence against Women*". The Inventory will catalogue examples of good practices in protecting women from sexual violence and inform the training of uniformed peacekeepers. The initiative facilitated the development of an agreed research agenda and guidance on data collection that meets ethical and confidentiality requirements by organizing a meeting of experts, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), in December 2008 on methodologies for collecting data on sexual violence in conflict.

14. The initiative's advocacy efforts increased under the banner "Stop Rape Now". A range of advocacy resources was added to the website (www.stoprapenow.org) to advance understanding and dissemination of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008). On behalf of UN Action, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, is leading a campaign "Stop Raping our Greatest Resource: Power to the Women and Girls of the DRC".

D. United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

15. During the reporting period, Member States, private sector and other donors significantly increased their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (Trust Fund), which is managed by UNIFEM on behalf of the United Nations system. In 2008, $22 million was awarded to 28 initiatives in 38 countries and territories. Grantees included

Governments (8 per cent), non-governmental organizations (65 per cent) and United Nations country teams working in partnership with Governments and non-governmental organizations (27 per cent). For the first time, United Nations country teams were invited to apply for funding through the Trust Fund. Demand for support from the Trust Fund continued to greatly exceed available funds, and the Trust Fund has set an annual target of $100 million by 2015 in order to meet the increasing demand. Through its 2009 call for proposals, which focused on national implementation of laws, policies and action plans that address violence against women, the Trust Fund also aimed to contribute to the achievement of the five key outcomes of the Secretary-General's campaign.

16. Over 20 United Nations entities were members of the Trust Fund's programme appraisal committee in 2008. A monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management framework was adopted to enhance the ability of the Trust Fund to generate, capture and disseminate knowledge. The Trust Fund is developing a database to facilitate results-based reporting on grants. An external evaluation of the Trust Fund, commissioned by UNIFEM, was initiated in December 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2009. It will provide recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Trust Fund. As the current strategy for the Trust Fund spanned the years from 2005 to 2008, a new strategy will be adopted in 2009, taking into account the findings of the external evaluation.

E. Inter-agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

17. The Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, chaired by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), continued to strengthen cooperation and coordination between United Nations entities and other international organizations to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including the protection of and support for victims of trafficking.

18. The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, launched in 2007, convened the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking in February 2008, with the objectives of raising awareness about human trafficking, forging new partnerships and facilitating cooperation.[3] In 2009, several publications prepared under the auspices of the Global Initiative contributed to the implementation of international standards to combat trafficking in persons, and an increase in the global knowledge based on the topic. One example is a handbook for parliamentarians, produced by UNODC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The Handbook contains a compilation of international laws and best practices developed to combat trafficking in persons. In 2007 and 2008, UNODC conducted a study on the responses of 155 countries and territories to the crime of human trafficking. This research formed the basis of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, published in February 2009. Guiding principles on memoranda of understanding between key stakeholders and law enforcement agencies on counter-trafficking cooperation were developed in 2009 through an expert group meeting convened by IOM, on behalf of the Global Initiative.

[3] United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (2008), *The Vienna Forum Report: A Way Forward to Combat Human Trafficking*, Vienna.

F. Coordination at the regional level

19. In 2009, the five regional commissions of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, commenced work on a project entitled "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities" project. The project's objective is to strengthen national and regional capacity to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women through enhanced statistical data and indicators, as well as knowledge-sharing, at the regional and interregional levels. Funded by the Development Account, the project is being implemented from 2008 to 2009.

20. Other projects to enhance coordination and collaboration at the regional level to eliminate violence against women have also been developed. For example, in 2008, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Union and other development partners, created the Network on Gender-Based Violence/Violence against Women, in Addis Ababa. The Network is undertaking the following activities: (a) reviewing global and regional legal commitments on gender-based violence and violence against women and analysing the obligations of States; (b) reviewing African Union reporting frameworks in order to facilitate the monitoring of progress and improvement of performance in implementing commitments; and (c) compiling good practices in addressing gender-based violence and violence against women in Africa.

III. Initiatives on violence against women by entities of the United Nations system in support of national efforts

A. Enhanced capacity to support national efforts

21. In order to better support initiatives to address violence against women at the national level, United Nations entities strengthened their leadership, policy frameworks and coordination. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General and senior United Nations officials emphasized on many occasions the gravity of violence against women as a violation of women's human rights and provided programmatic and institutional direction to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization's role in the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

22. Several United Nations entities adopted new policy frameworks and strategies and forged new strategic partnerships to end violence against women. In 2008, 10 United Nations entities[4] issued an Inter-agency Statement on eliminating female genital mutilation, confirming their commitment to support Governments, communities and the women and girls concerned to achieve the abandonment of female genital mutilation within a generation. UNFPA adopted a three-year strategy and framework for action, 2008-2011, to address gender-based violence. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) commissioned an external evaluation of its work on sexual and gender-based violence. Based on the

[4] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, World Health Organization.

results of the evaluation, UNHCR adopted a three-year strategic plan on sexual and gender-based violence in October 2008 and allocated $1.5 million for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. In 2009, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) joined the UNIFEM Global Programme on Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls. UNAIDS, WHO, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and other partners have formed a technical working group to propose recommendations on how to improve attention to violence against women within national HIV/AIDS responses. In June 2008, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee sub-working group on gender released a standard operating procedure template for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in internally displaced persons settings. In April 2009, UNDP held a global conference to identify entry points in order to enhance its work on gender-based violence.

23. United Nations entities collaborated with other stakeholders to strengthen regional approaches. For example, in June 2008, several United Nations entities, in collaboration with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and civil society actors, developed a regional action plan to eradicate sexual violence and end impunity in the Great Lakes Region.

24. United Nations entities have increased their capacity to provide advice and support on addressing violence against women and also continue to provide resources within their areas of responsibility. Department of Peacekeeping Operations gender advisers supported national actors to address sexual and gender-based violence. OHCHR gender advisers, to be deployed to regional offices in Fiji, Lebanon, Panama and Senegal, will aim to strengthen attention to violence against women in their programmes and activities. Twenty-five advisers have been deployed through the IASC Gender Capacity Project to build capacity of humanitarian actors at the country level to mainstream gender equality perspectives in programming, including capacity to work on prevention and response to gender-based violence. UNHCR deployed specialists on sexual and gender-based violence in the Central African Republic and Chad. UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations 2008-2011 places emphasis on ensuring access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence in eight countries. In 2009, 11 UNDP country offices will implement projects on violence against women in collaboration with the UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the Bureau will deploy senior gender advisers to 12 countries. The World Bank's Post-Conflict Fund provides umbrella funding for a range of activities, including work on violence against women. One example from 2008 is a $733,000 grant to administer a "protection from gender-based violence" programme in Côte d'Ivoire.

25. Good practices provide guidance for addressing violence against women in different contexts. Once identified, good practices can be adjusted, replicated and scaled up for broader use to enhance the work of United Nations entities at the national level. Gender advisers from the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia attended a regional meeting to share best practices and lessons learned for addressing violence against women. In 2008, in collaboration with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women organized a virtual dialogue on best practices in national implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The dialogue addressed violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2009, UNFPA published a second volume of case studies identifying good practices in programming to address violence against women.

26. Training enhances substantive knowledge and accelerates the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank held an internal half-day learning event on gender-based violence. Several Department of Peacekeeping Operations missions supported, or implemented, training activities for mission personnel and other stakeholders on gender-based violence against women, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste. On behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee sub-working group on gender, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs led a pilot workshop in Nairobi for seven country teams from the East African region to build their capacity to implement multisectoral gender-based violence programmes in humanitarian settings, using the guidelines for gender-based violence interventions and the Standing Committee's Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action.

27. Steps have been taken to strengthen adherence to the United Nations policy of "zero tolerance" for violence against women perpetrated by United Nations peacekeepers. UNHCR led the development of guidelines on establishing community-based complaints mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers through the Executive Committees on Humanitarian Affairs and Peace and Security United Nations-Non-Governmental Organizations Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as co-chair of the Task Force, led the development of field guidance for the implementation of a victim assistance programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/214. UNHCR required all staff to view and discuss the film *To Serve with Pride: Zero Tolerance for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*, produced by the Task Force. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) introduced agency-wide training in support of its policy against sexual exploitation and abuse in 2009.

B. Expanding the knowledge base and strengthening data collection and analysis

28. A robust knowledge base and solid data on violence against women are critical to the development and implementation of sound laws, policies, strategies and advocacy at the national level. United Nations entities developed new databases and observatories and supported the collection of statistical information and improvement of methodological tools at the global, regional and national levels.

29. The Secretary-General's database on violence against women was launched on 5 March 2009 by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.[5] The database provides the first global publicly accessible "one-stop shop" for information on measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women, including their legal frameworks; institutional mechanisms; policies, strategies and programmes; preventative measures and training; research and

[5] See www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase.

statistical data; and services for victims/survivors. The database represents a major step forward in capturing the global response to violence against women and is a contribution to the Secretary-General's campaign as it provides insights on measures to achieve the campaign's five key outcomes. It also increases opportunities for exchange of experiences and promising practices in addressing violence against women at the national level. Responses to a questionnaire on violence against women, addressed to Member States in September 2008 form the primary source of information for the database. All Member States are encouraged to provide information for inclusion, including updates on new developments, and the full text of laws, policies and other relevant documents, as they become available. As of 9 July 2009, 78 responses to the questionnaire have been received. United Nations country teams, at the request of Governments, provide support in their compilation. Knowledge about this new tool is growing. From 12 March to 22 June 2009, there were 10,799 visits to the website of the database by people from 173 States.

30. Violence against women is one of the three thematic areas covered by the African Women's Rights Observatory, developed by the Economic Commission for Africa African Centre for Gender and Social Development in collaboration with UNDP and launched in 2008. In 2009, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean launched the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean which contains an indicator on violence against women. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to update its Africa Governance Inventory Portal, which contains qualitative and quantitative information on initiatives undertaken to eliminate violence against women. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) regularly updates global databases on human trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors.

31. The use of indicators to measure violence against women provides critical impetus to a more systematic collection of data at the national level. This point was highlighted at the expert group meeting on indicators to measure violence against women convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the four other regional commissions, in 2007. The outcomes of that meeting were discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission in 2008 (see paras. 52 and 53 below). In response to a decision of the Statistical Commission in 2009, the Statistics Division initiated a trial compilation of national statistics based on the interim set of indicators on violence against women adopted by the Commission in order to determine their feasibility and relevance. Further attention was given to the issue during the Global Forum on Gender Statistics in 2007, which was jointly organized by United Nations entities and the Government of Italy. Other United Nations entities, including OHCHR, ECLAC and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), are supporting the ongoing work on global indicators. ESCAP convened an expert group meeting in 2008 with the aim of building partnerships between national statistical offices and national women's machineries in the development and use of statistics in policymaking, implementation and monitoring.

32. Knowledge of the costs of violence against women contributes to increased understanding of the impact of such violence on national development. Since the

Division for the Advancement of Women commissioned an expert paper in 2005,[6] methodologies for estimating such costs have further advanced. UNFPA, in collaboration with the International Centre for Research on Women, developed a model for costing violence against women, and collected data in three countries.[7] WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are collaborating on a study to estimate the global burden of disease attributable to intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

33. Improvements in data collection methodologies and measurement tools, as well as increased use of standardized modules and surveys, increase the availability of comparable data on violence against women. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, coordinated by UNICEF, continued to collect information on attitudes towards domestic violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage. An event presenting the results of the International Violence Against Women Survey was held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2008. The event was facilitated by the Division for the Advancement of Women, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Canada and Finland to the United Nations. UNHCR and UNFPA, in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee, continued to develop a Gender-based Violence Information Management System to improve and systematize data collection and information sharing in humanitarian settings. In 2008, technical consultations were conducted to support the roll-out of the system in Kenya and northern Uganda.

34. United Nations entities, including UNIFEM, UNDP, UNODC and UNICRI, supported national efforts to enhance national data collection systems. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM supported the development of a national database to collect and track service-based data on violence against women. In Cambodia, UNDP supported the development of four indicators to monitor gender equality, one of which related to domestic violence. With the support of UNODC, UNICRI and the Government of Italy, a database is being developed on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases in Nigeria.

35. Research and analysis of violence against women conducted or supported by United Nations entities continued to inform responses to such violence at the national level. UNICEF published a global study on violence against the girl child, in follow-up to the Secretary-General's 2006 in-depth study on violence against children, which examines the nature, prevalence and impact of violence against girls in the contexts of the home, community, school and institutions.[8] In November 2007, ECLAC published a regional report in follow-up to the Secretary-General's 2006 in-depth study on violence against women.[9] OHCHR issued a publication on the prosecution of rape and other forms of sexual violence and another publication on laws that discriminate against women.

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[6] See http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/expert%20brief%20costs.pdf.

[7] UNFPA and the International Centre for Research on Women (2009), *Intimate Partner Violence: High Costs to Households and Communities*, available online at: http://www.icrw.org/docs/2009/Intimate-Partner-Violence-High-Cost-to-Households-and-Communities.pdf.

[8] UNICEF (2008), *From Invisible to Indivisible: Promoting and Protecting the Right of the Girl Child to be Free from Violence*, New York.

[9] "No more! The right of women to live a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean".

36. There was an increase in research on the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS, in collaboration with WHO, undertook a review of epidemiological evidence of the links between HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence in emergency settings. UNIFEM supported the publication of two studies documenting the relationship between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.[10] The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) carried out research on HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, sexual and gender-based violence and equal property rights in Western Kenya and northern Uganda. The West and Central Africa Regional Office of UNICEF analysed the link between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS, finding that chronic violence can lead to HIV/AIDS risk behaviours.

37. Forms of violence against women referred to as harmful cultural or traditional practices were the subject of further research. ESCAP commissioned a subregional study on harmful practices as forms of violence against women. In 2008, UNICEF undertook in-depth research into the social dynamics of abandonment of harmful practices and social norms, in collaboration with partners, and UNFPA published the technical report of its Global Consultation on female genital mutilation/cutting. In 2009, the Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with ECA, convened an expert group meeting on legislation to address harmful practices which examined current research and practice from countries around the world.

38. Other topical issues that received increased research attention were violence against women in conflict, humanitarian and disaster-related settings and the connection between urban planning and violence against women. An OCHA expert group meeting identified two priority topics for research regarding gender-based violence in conflict settings: understanding the motivations of such violence and assessing the nature, scope and motivation for sexual violence against men and boys in conflict. An assessment undertaken by INSTRAW in the aftermath of tropical storm Noel in the Dominican Republic, found that there was little attention to, or provision in post-disaster reconstruction efforts for, addressing gender-based violence. UN-Habitat commissioned the preparation of a publication "Using Planning to Combat Violence against Women" and is finalizing, in collaboration with partners, a global assessment of initiatives responding to lack of safety and security for women in their communities.

C. Support for comprehensive legislative and policy development and access to services for victims/survivors

39. The enactment of comprehensive laws is fundamental for an effective and coordinated response to violence against women. Entities of the United Nations system developed several tools to guide legal reform at the national level and directly supported law reform efforts in a number of countries. An expert group meeting on good practices in legislation to address violence against women, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with UNODC, in 2008, produced a model framework for legislation on violence against women. The framework recommends the adoption of comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, mandates preventative measures

[10] "The Multiple Faces of the Intersections between HIV and Violence Against Women" and "Women, Violence and HIV and AIDS: Exploring Interfaces".

and training of relevant officials, ensures protection and support for victims/survivors and creates mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of the law. The framework will be supplemented in 2009 with recommendations in relation to female genital mutilation, so-called "honour" crimes, early and forced marriage, and other forms of violence against women, based on the outcome of an expert group meeting on legislation to address harmful practices, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with ECA. The Division will publish a handbook on legislation on violence against women in 2009, based on the results of the two expert group meetings. The handbook will serve as a useful tool for government officials, parliamentarians, civil society, staff of United Nations entities and other actors in their efforts to ensure a solid legal basis is in place for addressing all forms of violence against women.

40. The information gathered through the research efforts of United Nations entities, such as UNDP, has been used to inform legislative reform processes, as well as policy development. United Nations entities, including UNIFEM, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OHCHR, UNDP and IOM, supported the development, revision and implementation of laws to address violence against women, or one of its forms, in over 15 countries in the last two years. They provided technical advice to lawmakers, contributed to national consultative processes on reform and adoption of legislation and gave guidance on the effective implementation of laws. For example, UNDP supported the Rwandan Government in drafting the Law on the Prevention and Punishment of General Gender-based Violence and the Mexican Government in the implementation of the Act on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence. Several United Nations entities, including the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNICEF, UNIFEM, and UNODC, collaborated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen legislative responses to violence against women and children.

41. National action plans and strategies provide a framework for the cohesive implementation of a range of measures to address violence against women. Entities of the United Nations system, including UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP, also supported the development and adoption of national policies and plans in at least 15 countries in the last two years.

42. Victims/survivors of violence against women need timely access to integrated care, legal assistance and support services. United Nations entities, including UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNODC, supported the development of integrated care models and referral centres in a number of countries. UNHCR collaborated with health partners to increase access to post-exposure prophylaxis against HIV/AIDS for survivors of rape. Several United Nations entities, including OHCHR, UNIFEM and UNDP, supported the provision of legal aid to victims/survivors. UNRWA provided refugees with access to legal and counselling services. OHCHR piloted a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance access to justice for survivors of sexual violence. UNIFEM, UNDP and UNICRI provided victims/survivors of violence against women, including trafficking, with access to services for their empowerment, such as skills training on handicrafts, education grants, counselling, health and financial skills, and micro-enterprise activities.

D. Promoting awareness-raising and advocacy

43. The prevention and eventual elimination of violence against women requires changing attitudes and stereotypes that perpetuate inequality between men and women, as well as those that condone such violence. During the reporting period, the United Nations led awareness-raising efforts against violence against women at the global, regional and national levels. The launch of the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" in 2008 signified the commitment of the United Nations to address this issue at the highest level. In November 2008, the Secretary-General appointed Academy Award-winning actress Charlize Theron as United Nations Messenger of Peace, thereby giving a public face to the promotion of efforts worldwide to end violence against women. UNIFEM's global Internet-based campaign, "Say NO to violence against women", headed by UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman, obtained over 5 million signatures by 25 November 2008, including those of Heads of State and Ministers from 60 Governments and more than 600 parliamentarians from over 70 countries. These signatures were delivered to the Secretary-General in support of his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women".

44. Many United Nations entities stepped up support for advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives around a number of key commemorative days, such as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence (25 November to 10 December), International Women's Day (8 March), and the International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation (6 February). United Nations entities, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations field missions, Department of Political Affairs peacebuilding support offices, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP and IOM, mobilized around the 16 days of activism and supported a wide variety of activities, such as radio programmes, round-table discussions, workshops, meetings and conferences, traditional dances, songs, theatre plays, children's drawing competitions and film screenings, as an opportunity to sensitize stakeholders.

45. A significant array of communications tools and media are now available from United Nations entities, including the Department of Public Information, for use in awareness-raising efforts around the globe. United Nations Television produced short films on the subjects of domestic violence legislation in Austria, so-called "honour" crimes in Turkey, domestic violence in Nepal, the prevalence of rape in Burundi, and female infanticide in India. United Nations Radio produced several stories on violence against women, as did the media sections of Department of Peacekeeping Operations field missions. The United Nations news website, Integrated Regional Information Networks humanitarian news and analysis service, and United Nations publications such as Africa Renewal, regularly carried headline stories on the topic. Several United Nations entities, including UNESCO, ECLAC and IOM, developed video spots to raise awareness and combat violence against women, including trafficking. United Nations entities, including the secretariat for the Secretary-General's campaign, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on violence against women, updated their websites on violence against women to increase their content and user-friendliness. In order to provide ongoing updates on measures undertaken to address violence against women by intergovernmental bodies of the

United Nations system and States at the regional or subregional level, the Division launched a quarterly newsletter on violence against women in October 2008.

46. United Nations entities placed increasing focus on engaging all stakeholders at the national level, including high-level government officials, community and religious leaders, civil society and faith-based organizations, professional associations, community members, men and boys and young people. The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, launched in 2008, involves high-level government officials, networks of parliamentarians, religious leaders, NGOs, civil society and the media to advocate for the abandonment of female genital mutilation. Sensitization of community leaders on the human rights of women, focusing on gender-based violence, including forced and early marriages, was supported by OHCHR in Uganda in 2009. United Nations Volunteers and UNFPA launched a three-year joint project in 2008 to mobilize men and boys as allies for ending violence and discrimination against women and girls. In May 2008, UNHCR and the Sonke Gender Justice Network (Southern African Development Community Region) launched a similar project to engage men and boys as partners in preventing violence against women in refugee camps. WHO continued to work with professional associations, including the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to condemn the medicalization of female genital mutilation. In Cambodia, UNDP supported community conversation sessions to promote understanding of the social and legal issues related to domestic violence. Weekly discussion groups for women, men, girls and families on how to deal with domestic violence were held at UNRWA women programme centres. In 2008, the IOM office in Colombia began implementation of a project to prevent and address gender-based violence against internally displaced persons.

E. Training and capacity-building measures, including the development of tools

47. The United Nations system supported and implemented training and capacity-building initiatives for a wide range of stakeholders, including law enforcement officers, health professionals, civil society actors, statisticians, and the media. These initiatives supported the effective implementation of national laws and policies and promoted high standards in care and support for victims/survivors of violence.

48. A regional capacity-building workshop for judges and parliamentarians from 13 countries in Western Asia was convened, in Amman, by the Centre for Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Division for the Advancement of Women in 2007 and a second workshop took place in 2008. The workshops focused on follow-up to General Assembly resolution 61/143 and on family law. Several United Nations entities, including OHCHR, UNFPA, UNODC and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) supported trainings for police officers and police recruits, as well as military personnel. During 2008, UNIFEM supported police training on violence against women, including sexual violence and human trafficking, in Nigeria and Uganda, as well as training of the military in the Sudan and Burundi, training of Gacaca judges in Rwanda, and training of 100 Vietnamese National Assembly deputies on the implementation of the Family Violence Prevention Law. In Colombia, OHCHR supported training to strengthen the capacity of the Attorney

General's Office to prosecute crimes of sexual violence. UNIFEM convened a regional workshop on coordinated community responses to domestic violence with local government representatives and civil society organizations from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

49. Training and capacity-building for health professionals and service providers were supported by United Nations entities, including UNFPA, UNHCR and UNRWA. UNFPA supported sensitivity training of medical professionals to meet the health needs of women affected by violence with pilot interventions in 10 countries, while other training programmes aimed to strengthen capacity for data collection, appropriate media coverage of the topic, and collaboration with civil society. UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF worked together in Burundi to provide training and reporting assistance for civil society organizations and police to improve statistics and data collection on violence against women. Training for journalists on violence against women and human rights was organized by OHCHR in Mexico. UNIFEM supported projects to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors in Indonesia, Thailand, Timor-Leste and the Philippines. UNICRI launched the long-distance component of its training on human trafficking for non-governmental organizations in Nigeria.

50. Tools, including guidelines and manuals, developed by United Nations entities, as well as IOM, provide guidance in the provision of services at the national level. For example, WHO is preparing guidelines on health sector response to intimate partner and sexual violence. UNRWA developed guidelines, a referral system and a training course for health staff handling cases of violence against women and children in UNRWA clinics. An e-learning programme for clinical staff to improve their skills to provide appropriate care and support to rape survivors in emergency settings is under preparation by WHO, UNFPA, and UNHCR. UNFPA is working with World Education, a private voluntary organization, to develop a curriculum to address gender-based violence and violence against women in humanitarian/conflict/post-conflict settings. In 2008, INSTRAW, in collaboration with partners, published a toolkit on gender and security reform, which aims at improving the security sector's prevention of and response to gender-based violence. In 2009, IOM published a guide for healthcare providers caring for trafficked persons.

51. United Nations entities, including WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNDP, UNIFEM and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, contributed to institutional capacity-building. UNODC is implementing a project, funded by the United Nations Development Account, to establish women's police stations to address gender-based violence in Brazil and Southern Cone countries. Support from UNDP resulted in the strengthening of the family violence unit of the Kabul Police Force. With UNIFEM support, the Kosovo Police Service and the Kosovo Protection Corps established a gender working group in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Investigation section.

IV. Work by intergovernmental bodies on violence against women

52. In its resolutions 61/143 and 62/133, the General Assembly called for the development of a possible set of indicators on violence against women in order to

assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. The Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission, pursuant to the requests of the Assembly, held a joint dialogue to discuss indicators to measure violence against women in 2008. At its thirty-ninth session (2008), the Statistical Commission established a "Friends of the Chair" group to examine the feasibility of such a set of indicators. Based on the proposal of the group, the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, adopted decision 40/110, approving an interim set of indicators, including a request that the Friends of the Chair proceed with their work and report back to the Commission.

53. The following interim set of indicators was adopted by the Statistical Commission: (a) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (b) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (c) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (d) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (e) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency; (f) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency. In addition to this set of indicators, the Commission also requested that work be undertaken on methodological aspects of data collection.

54. The Economic and Social Council, including several of its functional commissions, and the Human Rights Council continued their work on violence against women in response to General Assembly resolution 61/143. In 2008, the Economic and Social Council held a round-table discussion on its role in addressing violence against women. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is updating the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see Assembly resolution 52/86). The Commission on the Status of Women held dialogues with the Statistical Commission and with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Human Rights Council considers the question of violence against women in conformity with its annual programme of work (see Human Rights Council resolution 11/2).

V. Conclusions

55. **Through the leadership of the Secretary-General, including as part of his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" 2008-2015, this pervasive violation of the human rights of women has become a highly visible priority issue for attention by the entities of the United Nations system. The umbrella of the Secretary-General's campaign's framework for action provides a new opportunity for the United Nations system to intensify its support for national efforts to achieve the five key goals of the campaign by 2015. United Nations country teams, in particular, are expected to implement concrete measures as**

outlined in the programme of United Nations activities and expected outcomes, 2008-2015.[11]

56. Several key inter-agency initiatives have been pivotal in enhancing cooperation and collaboration on particular issues, and resulted in better coordinated support for national initiatives. Based on the experiences gained from the joint programming initiative on violence against women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on violence against women and other relevant efforts, a manual/guidelines on joint programming will be produced. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict continued to play a lead role in advocating for an effective response to conflict-related violence against women, mobilizing resources, and enhancing the knowledge base on this topic. Ongoing involvement in and contribution to these efforts by United Nations entities, particularly at the national level, is critical to achieve sustainable impact, draw lessons learned and create tools and guidelines that will facilitate the broad-based application of good practices.

57. While the United Nations Trust Fund has been able to significantly increase the volume of grants, demand for support continued to greatly exceed available funds. In order to meet the increasing demand, the Trust Fund has set an annual target of $100 million by 2015.

58. The Secretary-General's database on violence against women is a unique tool for capturing all measures taken by Member States to address violence against women. The easily accessible and constantly expanding knowledge base provided by the database is critical in supporting targeted and effective action at different levels, by a range of stakeholders. The entities of the United Nations system have a critical role to play in supporting Member States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information to keep the database as comprehensive and up-to-date as possible.

59. Entities of the United Nations system expanded their support and assistance to States at the national level, including support for data collection and analysis, training and capacity-building, legal and policy development and provision of services for victims, as well as awareness-raising and advocacy. There was further momentum in undertaking research and developing tools to inform legal and policy development. United Nations entities have increased their own specialized capacity in the area of violence against women so as to better support Member States. These efforts should continue and expand in response to the mandates of the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/143, 62/133, and 63/155.

60. Work on indicators to measure violence against women has significantly advanced. There was a notable increase in attention to specific issues, including female genital mutilation, the linkages between HIV/AIDS and violence against women and violence against women in humanitarian and conflict situations. Many other issues and areas require increased attention. There is, for example, a need to increase knowledge about the impact of measures taken and results achieved. Such evidence would give further impetus to the development and implementation of comprehensive legislation, targeted policies and programmes and effective services for victims, including the allocation of resources devoted to such efforts.

[11] See http://endviolence.un.org/pdf/Framework_booklet.pdf.

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Advancement of women

Violence against women migrant workers

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/132, provides information on the measures taken by Member States and activities undertaken within the United Nations system to address violence against women migrant workers and ensure protection of their human rights. The report concludes with recommendations for future action.

* A/64/50.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Measures reported by Member States	3
	A. International instruments	3
	B. Legislation and the justice system	4
	C. Policies	5
	D. Prevention: measures and training	6
	E. Protection and assistance	7
	F. Data collection and research	8
	G. Bilateral, regional, international and other cooperation	8
III.	Activities undertaken within the United Nations system	9
	A. Global legal and policy development	9
	B. Initiatives by United Nations entities and the International Organization for Migration in support of national efforts	12
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	15

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 62/132 on violence against women migrant workers, the General Assembly called on Governments to, inter alia, protect the human rights of women migrant workers, provide victims of violence with assistance and protection, strengthen efforts to prevent violence, punish perpetrators, and enhance data collection and bilateral, regional and international cooperation. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it, at its sixty-fourth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other relevant sources. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and is based on, inter alia, information received from Member States, entities of the United Nations system and IOM. It covers the period since the previous report (A/62/177) up to 1 June 2009.

II. Measures reported by Member States

2. As at 1 June 2009, 28 Member States had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information on the implementation of resolution 62/132,[1] providing information on a range of measures taken to combat violence against, and protect the human rights of, women migrant workers, including strengthening legal frameworks, addressing violence against women migrant workers in national action plans and strategies, carrying out awareness-raising campaigns and other preventive actions, reinforcing efforts to prosecute perpetrators and protect victims and enhancing bilateral and multilateral collaboration. The linkages between trafficking in women and girls and violence against women migrant workers have been noted, and States have provided information on anti-trafficking laws, policies and activities. Separate reports on trafficking in women and girls have been submitted to the General Assembly on a biennial basis, most recently at the sixty-third session (see A/63/215, A/59/185, A/57/170 and A/55/322). The next report on trafficking in women and girls will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, as requested in resolution 63/156.

A. International instruments[2]

3. The international legal framework obligates States to adopt laws and policies to address violence against women migrant workers, provides them with guidance in

[1] Replies were received from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Paraguay, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

[2] Information in this section is taken from Government submissions, the multilateral treaties website of the Office of Legal Affairs and the websites of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

this respect, and establishes a framework for collaboration. Since the previous report issued in 2007, there has been an increase in the number of States parties to international instruments relevant to combating violence against women migrant workers. As at June 2009, 149 States had ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, while 130 States had ratified or acceded to its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and 119 States had ratified or acceded to the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Of the Member States that submitted information for the present report, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Paraguay, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Turkmenistan had become parties to the Convention and the two Protocols; and Colombia and Qatar had become parties to the Convention and the Trafficking Protocol.

4. As at June 2009, 41 States had become party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Of the Member States reporting, Azerbaijan, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Paraguay, Rwanda and Turkey had become parties to that Convention. Many of the States providing input to the present report are a party to relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including Convention No. 97 concerning Migration for Employment (Ecuador, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi and Trinidad and Tobago); Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Paraguay, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Turkmenistan); and Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Paraguay, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey).

5. Many Member States drew attention to their adherence to international human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers. States also indicated their adherence to regional instruments that address violence against women, in particular the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) (Colombia and Paraguay).

B. Legislation and the justice system

6. States have adopted a range of different laws that can protect women migrant workers from discrimination and violence and punish the perpetrators. States reported on provisions in their penal codes that could be used to address and punish violence against women migrant workers, such as provisions specifying the criminal offences of coercion, abduction, bodily injury, sexual harassment, domestic violence, human trafficking, forced labour, sexual assault and rape, as well as provisions punishing violence against certain groups of people (Belarus, Chile, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Mexico,

Paraguay, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and Turkmenistan). States also reported on provisions in criminal codes and other laws that can protect women migrant workers from arbitrary arrest and detention, such as criminal provisions on unlawful imprisonment and provisions in immigration laws providing for appeal of an expulsion order (El Salvador, Germany, Hungary and Sweden). In some countries, such as Turkey, penalties have increased for sexual harassment committed within the workplace.

7. States reported on different laws that could protect women migrant workers from discrimination, abuse and harassment, including equal treatment and equal opportunities laws (Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Mexico and Romania), equal employment acts and labour acts (Azerbaijan, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey) and employment of foreign workers acts (Thailand). States highlighted laws that had been adopted to protect women against violence, including sexual violence and domestic violence, and human trafficking, as well as acts to support victims of crime, which can protect women migrant workers (Belarus, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkmenistan). Remedies under civil law including compensation, for violation of rights, are also available to women migrant workers (Germany).

8. There was little discussion of the effectiveness of these laws in specifically preventing and addressing violence against women migrant workers. One State (Russian Federation) reported that increased compliance with its labour laws had contributed to a decline in crimes against migrant workers, including women migrant workers.

9. Specific laws to safeguard the human rights of foreigners have been adopted in some countries, such as the Republic of Korea and Spain. Protection for domestic workers has also been strengthened. Sweden, for example, extended protection under its Work Environment Act to employees working in an employer's household. Some States highlighted new legislation that would address some of the vulnerabilities faced by women migrant workers, such as new legislation for labour immigration in Sweden that includes measures to reduce the dependency of migrant workers on their employers. A number of States strengthened control over recruitment and travel agencies and employers (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Russian Federation), including by requiring licences for agencies recruiting for employment abroad (Belarus) and requiring that collective bargaining agreements include provisions to address sexual harassment and other violence against workers (Azerbaijan).

C. Policies

10. States have addressed violence against women migrant workers in a number of different national action plans and strategies. Some States reported on addressing violence against women migrant workers within the context of policies to address violence against women and promote women's human rights in general (Ghana, Japan, Kyrgyzstan and Slovakia). A number of States described targeted measures taken to address violence against women migrant workers. For example, in Denmark, action plans to address domestic violence included measures to combat

violence against foreign women and provide support services to them. In 2009, Spain adopted a specific plan of action on gender-based violence in immigrant communities, which included a range of prevention and capacity-building measures.

11. States also specifically addressed the situation of migrant women workers in national plans related to employment and other issues. Mexico's plan of action on gender equality, for example, included measures to protect the human rights of women migrants. The Republic of Korea included support and employment services for foreign women married to Korean nationals in its plan to reconcile work and family life. Thailand adopted a migrant health strategy that addressed the health of migrant women, and Ghana was in the process of developing a national migration policy that would incorporate gender perspectives and strengthen protection of the rights of migrant workers. Mexico has developed dedicated national mechanisms to improve coordination among different stakeholders in the development of gender and migration policies and strategies.

12. Some States reported on plans promoting the integration of migrants into their countries (Belarus and Germany). Colombia described its plan to assist its nationals working abroad.

D. Prevention measures and training

13. Prevention is integral to efforts to address violence against women migrant workers. A few States, including Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, pointed out that lack of knowledge about their rights and relevant laws increases the vulnerability of migrant women to violence and abuse. States have made efforts to address this issue and take preventive action in respect of violence against women migrant workers in general, as well as awareness-raising and information campaigns on eliminating violence against women and human trafficking (Belarus, Czech Republic, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey). These campaigns, often carried out in cooperation with a range of partners and in multiple languages, have included conferences, seminars, the issuance of publications and brochures and other activities.

14. A number of States have carried out information campaigns on violence against women specifically directed at migrant women. For example, Malawi directed campaigns at women who migrate internally within the country, while Denmark carried out campaigns targeting ethnic minority women on violence against women and the rights of victims and assistance available to them. Spain published brochures on the rights of migrant women victims of violence and distributed them in immigrant communities. In Trinidad and Tobago, education and awareness-raising activities on workers' rights included efforts aimed at preventing abuse of women migrant workers and discrimination against them.

15. Germany provided a range of information related to migration and integration for migrants in different languages, including courses targeting foreign women that addressed women's rights and violence prevention issues. Several States, including Chile and Mexico, conducted information campaigns on the rights of women migrants. Thailand reported on education and information programmes concerning the costs and risks of migration, while Azerbaijan noted services providing information for its nationals on employment in different countries and the risks related to illegal employment.

16. Sweden, Thailand and Turkey emphasized the importance of promoting legal channels of migration to reduce the vulnerability of illegal migrants to abuse. Several States, including El Salvador and Mexico, reported on measures taken to prevent the exploitation and abuse of migrant children, including programmes to help identify, assist and repatriate unaccompanied migrant children.

17. Responses to violence against women migrant workers must be carried out in a gender-sensitive and effective manner. To that end, States such as Belarus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago carried out training programmes for Government officials, police, the judiciary and other relevant personnel on violence against women, human trafficking, gender equality and other related issues. Denmark, for example, carried out training for personnel working at shelters to better assist battered women with ethnic minority backgrounds. Ecuador established training programmes on violence against women in border areas. Under its anti-trafficking law, Thailand developed operational guidelines for training to enhance the capacity of relevant officials to assist migrant workers and their children, irrespective of their legal status. In Germany, training for the police included a focus on migration and interaction with foreign nationals in daily police work, while in Sweden, the Swedish Migration Board included issues related to gender equality and the situation of women in its training programmes.

E. Protection and assistance

18. Migrant women who are victims of violence need a range of services to help them recover from the trauma of their experience. Member States, including Belarus, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Spain Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey, reported on measures to protect and assist migrant women victims, including shelters, hotlines, legal assistance, psychological and medical services, and the provision of information regarding available services, vocational training and redress. This support was often provided in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners, or by NGOs with financial support from States.

19. In Denmark, services for battered women included a focus on ethnic minority women. The Republic of Korea established shelters for migrant women, and its national budget for 2009 included a specific item for the protection of women migrants. Mexico established shelters throughout the country for migrant children. States, including Denmark and Spain, reported on the possibility for immigrant women who have been victims of domestic violence to independently apply for residency permits. Networks and organizations for migrant women were reported in Germany, Ghana, Mexico and Thailand, including a nationwide coordination group combating violence against women migrants in Germany.

20. States drew attention to protection and support available under work permit arrangements for foreign nationals, including protection under labour laws, access to benefits, such as medical care and education, and monitoring and inspecting of workplaces (Germany, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Turkey). Several States, including Ecuador, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago, highlighted labour inspections as a means of protecting the rights of migrant workers. States referred to

measures to enrol migrant children in school, which assist migrant women workers to remain in the country with their children (Thailand). Ghana carried out a project to identify and register girl migrants in order to protect them from abuse and offer education and vocational training.

F. Data collection and research

21. Data availability is critical for informed legal and policy development to address violence against women migrant workers and ensure the protection of their human rights. Several States recognized the general need for improved information and data on migrant populations and undocumented workers. A number of States (Belarus, Germany, Japan, Qatar, Slovakia and Thailand) reported on data collection on violence against women and/or human trafficking, but either did not indicate if this included specific data on violence against women migrant workers or mentioned that the data were not disaggregated by immigration status. In some States (Kyrgyzstan, Spain and Sweden), data included information on violence against migrant women. Data have been compiled from crime and judicial statistics, immigration records, victim support services and surveys. Thailand disaggregated data by a range of factors, including sex, age, nationality, perpetrator and form of violence.

22. Some States have made efforts to enhance their analysis of issues concerning women and migration (Czech Republic, Denmark and Trinidad and Tobago). For example, the Czech Republic researched and analysed the situation of migrants from a gender perspective. Denmark launched a research project on family reunification among ethnic minority groups and on the scope and risk of forced marriage, among other issues. Qatar was conducting a study on women workers in households that examined facts, problems and solutions, while El Salvador was researching the impact of migration on Salvadoran women.

G. Bilateral, regional, international and other cooperation

23. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation is key to addressing violence against women migrant workers. Many States reported on bilateral and regional arrangements and collaboration with United Nations entities and IOM in areas such as combating violence against women, promoting women's human rights and migration. At the bilateral level, States concluded labour agreements and cooperated on information campaigns regarding safe migration and work opportunities. They also concluded arrangements aimed at improving protection for migrant workers.

24. Regional cooperation activities included an IOM project in Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago aimed at strengthening capacity to collect sex- and age-disaggregated data on migrant workers and enhancing regional cooperation on migration. The Andean community adopted a regional plan of action to enhance migration policies and strategies based on human rights principles. States collaborated with ILO to strengthen frameworks for promoting workers' rights (Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago) and combating human trafficking, including a project to improve labour standards and protect labour in the countries of the Mekong region. Several States hosted or participated in regional or international conferences on issues such as migration, combating violence against women and human trafficking.

25. A few States reported on specific efforts to address the situation of women migrant workers. For example, Japan supported a programme in Indonesia, implemented by UNIFEM, aimed at empowering women migrant workers in Asia. El Salvador hosted a regional conference on women and migration that included a focus on the risks faced by women migrants.

III. Activities undertaken within the United Nations system

26. Intergovernmental and expert bodies continue to address violence against women migrant workers, and global conferences and meetings have emphasized the importance of protecting the human rights of women migrant workers. Entities of the United Nations system and IOM work to promote and protect the rights and safety of women migrant workers in support of national efforts. As at 1 June 2009, eight entities of the United Nations system and IOM had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information.[3]

A. Global legal and policy development

1. Resolutions and recommendations

27. Legal and policy development continued through resolutions and recommendations adopted by United Nations intergovernmental and expert bodies. At its ninth session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 9/5 on the human rights of migrants, which encouraged all States to apply a gender perspective in developing international migration policies in order to adopt the necessary measures to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration. At its seventeenth session (30 November 2007 and 14-18 April 2008), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted decision 17/1 on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls, which strongly condemned all acts of violence against women and girls, including violence against women migrants and women migrant workers, whether those acts were perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors.

28. At its fifty-third session (2-13 March 2009), the Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, which urged Governments to strengthen efforts to protect the rights and ensure decent work conditions for all domestic workers, including women migrant domestic workers. The agreed conclusions also urged Governments to take measures to address the special needs of girls, including migrant girls, employed as domestic workers and caregivers, and to provide them access to education, vocational training, health services, food, shelter and recreation, while ensuring the prevention and elimination of child labour and economic exploitation of girls. At its fifty-second session (25 February-7 and 13 March 2008), the Commission addressed refugee women and

[3] International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations Volunteers programme.

women migrants in its resolution 52/2 on ending female genital mutilation, which urged States to promote effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities, in order to protect girl children from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence.

29. The human rights treaty bodies established under the international human rights treaties continued to address issues relating to violence against women migrant workers. At its forty-second session (20 October to 7 November 2008), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers, which addressed the heightened risk of violence faced by migrant women, including violence due to irregular or loss of immigration status, domestic violence against women who migrate as spouses of male migrant workers, violence perpetrated by officials in detention centres and violence against women migrant domestic workers. The recommendation highlighted the barriers migrant women workers face in access to justice. It recommended that States parties should ensure that women migrant workers, both documented and undocumented, have access to legal remedies, that linguistically and culturally appropriate gender-sensitive services for women migrant workers are available, and that victims are provided with relevant emergency and social services, regardless of their immigration status. It also recommended that States parties should ensure that women migrant workers in detention do not suffer discrimination or gender-based violence.

30. In their concluding observations on the reports of States parties, the human rights treaty bodies expressed concern regarding the economic and sexual exploitation and ill-treatment of young migrant girls employed as domestic servants (A/63/38), and the incidence of rape and sexual violence experienced by female migrant workers, especially domestic workers (A/63/18). They expressed particular concern regarding the status and situation of female domestic migrant workers, as they cannot easily file complaints and gain redress in cases of abuse (A/63/38). They expressed concern about the ill-treatment of women migrant workers by recruiting companies, which often place them in situations that impair the enjoyment of their human rights while abroad, including debt bondage, forced labour and other ill-treatment, including sexual abuse (A/63/44). They also expressed regret regarding the absence of comprehensive and disaggregated data on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of ill-treatment of migrant workers (A/63/44). As a result, the treaty bodies have called upon States parties to grant, in law and in practice, female migrant workers and their children the rights provided for in international human rights treaties and to implement measures aimed at informing them about these rights. They have also urged States parties to establish procedures to monitor and safeguard the rights of women migrant workers; adequately prosecute and punish abusive employers; ensure avenues for redress and the availability of services and programmes for protecting women migrant workers against violence; and collect data on the issue.

31. Special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council highlighted the vulnerability of women migrant workers to violence. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, in connection with his visit to Mexico, highlighted the forms of violence to which women migrant workers are subjected, including physical and sexual assault in smuggling operations, and harassment and abuse in detention centres (A/HRC/11/7/Add.2, paras. 49-53 and 62). He recommended that

the Government of Mexico create a mechanism to allow migrant workers, even if in irregular stay, to lodge complaints of abuse regarding unfair labour practices in the domestic sphere, and that it further develop support services and shelters for victims of abuse in the domestic sphere (A/HRC/11/7/Add.2, para. 91).

32. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, examined the relationship between political economy and violence against women, noting that women migrant and domestic workers were among the first to be laid off during the global economic crisis (A/HRC/11/6, para. 26). Violence against women, including incidents of involuntary pregnancy tests, sexual harassment, rape and femicide had been documented in some free trade zones in developing countries, where young, migrant women were hired on temporary and insecure contracts (A/HRC/11/6, para. 72). The Special Rapporteur addressed the impact of multiple oppressions on women migrant workers, emphasizing that their vulnerability to violence is aggravated by working in poor conditions with low social status, living in degrading housing situations and lacking basic legal protections and opportunities for redress (A/HRC/11/6, para. 75). She also addressed the issue in several recent country visits, including her visits to the Republic of Moldova (A/HRC/11/6/Add.4), Tajikistan (A/HRC/11/6/Add.2) and Saudi Arabia (A/HRC/11/6/Add.3).

2. Conferences and meetings

33. A number of conferences and meetings addressed issues of relevance to women migrant workers. For example, the Durban Review Conference, which took place between 20 and 24 April 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, to evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001), addressed the situation of women domestic workers. The outcome document urged States to adopt and enforce legislation to protect migrant domestic workers, regardless of their immigration status, in particular women, and to grant migrant workers in domestic service access to transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish migrant workers, and called on States to promptly investigate and punish all abuses, including ill-treatment.

34. The Global Forum on Migration and Development, a State-led initiative established following the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the General Assembly in 2006, held two meetings, the first in 2007 in Belgium and the second in 2008 in the Philippines. These meetings underscored the importance of protecting the human rights of women migrant workers and ensuring gender-sensitive immigration and development policies. In the lead-up to the second Global Forum, held in 2008, the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development, organized by ILO, UNIFEM, the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners, was held in the Philippines and attended by a wide range of stakeholders. The outcome documents called for enhanced opportunities for migrant women, protection of their rights and holistic support for survivors of violence.

35. The Governing Body of ILO has agreed to place an item on decent work for domestic workers on the agenda of the 99th Session of the International Labour Conference (2010) with a view to setting international labour standards. Such

standards would contribute greatly to preventing violence against women migrant domestic workers and protecting their rights.

B. Initiatives by United Nations entities and the International Organization for Migration in support of national efforts

1. Support for legislative and policy development

36. Entities of the United Nations system have collaborated with national authorities and developed tools to support the improvement of laws and policies to address violence against women migrant workers and promote their human rights. For example, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime organized an expert group meeting in May 2008 in Austria, which developed a model framework for legislation on violence against women.[4] The framework is intended to assist States in enhancing existing, and developing new, legislation on violence against women. The framework includes the recommendations relevant to migrant women, that legislation should:

(a) Protect all women without discrimination as to race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, marital status, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or refugee status, age or disability;

(b) Recognize that women's experience of violence is shaped by factors such as their race, colour, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, marital status, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or refugee status, age, or disability, and include targeted measures for particular groups of women, where appropriate;

(c) Provide that survivors of violence against women should not be deported or subjected to other punitive actions related to their immigration status when they report such violence to police or other authorities;

(d) Allow immigrants who are survivors of violence to confidentially apply for legal immigration status independently of the perpetrator.

37. IOM engaged in a number of capacity-building activities for policymakers, which included a focus on the promotion of gender-sensitive migration policies. Its publications included guidance on how countries of origin and destination could include gender analysis in their planning of migration policies. UNIFEM supported the drafting of laws that promote and protect the rights of women migrant workers in a number of countries, including Indonesia, Jordan and Nepal. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees continued to give priority to supporting States in the development of migration strategies that address refugee protection concerns.

[4] Based on the results of the 2008 expert group meeting, the Division for the Advancement of Women prepared a handbook for legislation on violence against women, which contains the model framework and is available on the Division's website at: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-handbook.htm.

2. Awareness-raising, capacity-building and other prevention measures

38. United Nations and other relevant entities engaged in and supported advocacy campaigns, as well as awareness-raising and capacity-building activities to promote the human rights of women migrant workers and safe migration. For example, IOM managed a migrant support centre in Zambia that organizes awareness-raising activities on violence against women. In Thailand, IOM carried out a range of information activities to promote and protect the human rights of migrants that included a focus on the vulnerabilities and risks faced by women migrant workers. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) initiated a project aimed at preventing reproductive rights abuses and gender-based violence among migrant women along the borders of 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Publications were issued by United Nations entities on the prevention and protection of women migrant workers from violence, including an ILO information guide on preventing discrimination, exploitation and abuse of women migrant workers and a joint report by the member agencies of the Global Migration Group on international migration and human rights, which underscored the importance of protecting the human and labour rights of women migrant workers and addressing their vulnerability to human rights abuses, exploitation and discrimination.

39. UNIFEM has organized or supported a number of conferences and meetings among Government representatives and other stakeholders, including recruiting agencies, to raise awareness and exchange good practices in order to combat violence against women migrant workers and protect their rights. It has implemented community awareness-raising and pre-departure orientations for women migrant workers in Indonesia on ways to protect migrant women from violence and abuse, and is carrying out a regional programme on empowering women migrant workers in Asia, which includes building the capacity of migrant workers associations and women migrant workers to claim their rights and entitlements. One of ILO's priorities is to combat forced labour and trafficking of migrant domestic workers and, to that end, it has carried out a number of projects aimed at protecting migrant domestic workers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong, China. These projects include raising public awareness and targeting advocacy activities to promote policy and legislative protection measures for migrant domestic workers and building the capacity of governmental officials and other stakeholders to effectively combat forced labour and trafficking of migrant domestic workers.

40. The United Nations system and related organizations provided or supported training programmes for different stakeholders on safe migration and the protection of human rights of women migrant workers. Programmes included seminars for delegates of permanent missions to the United Nations on key immigration issues, such as the situation of women migrant workers, provided by UNFPA in collaboration with IOM and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, among others; IOM training programmes for police, immigration officers, judges, prosecutors and service providers in many countries on protecting the human rights of women migrant victims of abuse and trafficking; UNIFEM-supported training of paralegals in Indonesia to assist women migrant victims of violence and abuse and UNIFEM support in the development of pre-departure trainings and orientation for potential migrant workers in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

3. Protection and support for women migrant victims of violence

41. United Nations and related entities supported different stakeholders in their efforts to enhance protection and services for women migrant workers. For instance, IOM was involved in the delivery of direct health assistance to migrant populations, including the provision of counselling, HIV post-exposure prophylaxis and emergency contraceptives for gender-based violence survivors in Zimbabwe. In Viet Nam, IOM supported the formulation of self-help groups aimed at empowering women migrant victims of violence and in the Philippines, IOM supported the Government in the production of a video providing self-defence techniques and tips on how to avoid and deal with abuse. In Sri Lanka, the United Nations Volunteers programme supported a project providing legal aid to migrant women and assisting those who are victims of violence.

42. UNIFEM carried out and supported a number of initiatives within the context of its women migrant workers project in Jordan, including the publication of booklets for domestic workers in multiple languages on the rights of women migrant workers and channels of support. UNIFEM supported the Government of Jordan in the endorsement of a contract for non-Jordanian domestic workers, which guarantees the rights of migrant women to life insurance, medical care and rest days, and is considered a requirement for obtaining residency, a work permit and a visa to enter Jordan. UNIFEM supported the establishment of community and resource centres for migrant women in Bangladesh, the organization of returned migrant women in Nepal and the creation of self-help groups for returned women in Cambodia.

4. Data collection, research and support for policy development

43. United Nations and related entities support the increased availability of data on migrant women and violence against them. IOM conducts research and data collection on women and international labour migration, including on trafficking and exploitation of women migrant workers, and supports countries in building their migration data collection. An upcoming IOM publication will present six country studies in Asia dealing with migration and gender, including gender-based violence. UNIFEM has carried out or supported studies on a number of issues, including economic violence against women migrant workers in Nepal and the health status of women migrant workers in Bangladesh, and has conducted mapping and assessment studies of the situation of women migrant workers in several countries, including Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic. ILO has issued a number of studies on gender and migrant workers, including mapping studies on domestic workers.

44. In March 2009, the Secretary-General's database on violence against women was launched during the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women.[5] The Division for the Advancement of Women functions as the secretariat of the database. The database contains information on measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women in a number of areas, such as legal frameworks, policies and programmes, services for victims, data and statistics, and promising practices. "Migrant women" is one of the keywords of the database, through which a user can search for and obtain information. The database is

[5] See http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action.

intended as a tool for sharing good practices and initiatives to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

45. **Action has been taken at the national, regional and international levels to combat violence against women migrant workers and protect women migrant workers' human rights. The number of States parties to relevant international instruments has increased. Efforts have been made to strengthen national legal and policy frameworks and enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation.**

46. **Many of the efforts reported related to the development of laws and policies on gender equality, violence against women and/or workers' rights in general, rather than specific measures to address violence against women migrant workers. Some targeted measures to address violence against women migrant workers were reported, including specific legislation, national action plans, strengthening of contractual arrangements and control over recruitment agencies, information campaigns directed at migrant women, and services for women migrant victims of violence.**

47. **Further monitoring and reporting is needed on the effectiveness of all actions taken and their impact on women migrant workers, including use of existing instruments, legislation, policies and strategies on gender equality, violence against women and workers' rights, as well as specific targeted measures directed at migrant women.**

48. **Violence against women migrant workers persists, and women continue to be subjected to violence and their rights violated throughout every stage of the migration cycle. Such violence takes many different forms, including physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence, as well as economic abuse and exploitation. Undocumented women migrant workers remain particularly vulnerable to violence, exploitation and discrimination.**

49. **States should continue to ratify and implement international instruments and review and revise national legal frameworks to ensure compliance with their international obligations. In respect of both documented and undocumented women migrant workers, this includes ensuring that legislation effectively protects their human rights and comprehensively addresses violence against them; occupations dominated by women migrant workers, such as domestic work, are regulated and include mechanisms for monitoring workplace conditions; women migrant workers have access to legal remedies and redress for violence against them and that they are not penalized for bringing complaints; recruiting and employment agencies are effectively regulated and monitored; perpetrators of violence are effectively prosecuted and punished; and migrant women victims of violence can apply for residency permits independently of an abusive employer or spouse. Mechanisms should be put in place to assess the effectiveness of relevant legislation in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women migrant workers.**

50. **States should ensure that migration policies are gender-sensitive, rights-based and promote safe migration, and that all relevant policies and strategies ensure the protection of the human rights of all women migrant workers and**

comprehensively address violence against women migrant workers, including measures to prevent violence, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims. Such policies should incorporate measurable goals and timetables, as well as monitoring and accountability measures, provide for impact assessments and ensure coordination of action among all stakeholders through appropriate mechanisms. States should continue to conclude and implement bilateral and multilateral arrangements to ensure the protection of the rights of all women migrant workers and facilitate effective action in law enforcement and prosecution, prevention and capacity-building and victim protection and support, and to exchange information and good practices in combating violence against women migrant workers.

51. Awareness-raising and other prevention efforts should continue and be reinforced. Education programmes and awareness-raising campaigns should be conducted in sending and receiving countries and directed at migrant women, recruiting and employment agencies, the media, as well as the population as a whole. Such programmes should include the promotion of the human rights of women migrant workers and safe migration, draw attention to existing laws and support for migrant women, and highlight the risks, dangers and opportunities of migration. Such programmes should be multilingual, where appropriate. Pre-departure orientation and training for potential migrants should be gender-sensitive, rights-based and standardized in sending countries. Training programmes for police, immigration officials, judicial personnel, social and health workers and others should be strengthened so that they are systematic and so that all persons responding to violence against women migrant workers have the capacity to do so effectively with full respect for the human rights of the victims.

52. Many States have made efforts to strengthen support systems for victims of violence. States should continue to reinforce such efforts and should ensure that women migrant victims of violence are given the support and protection to which they are entitled in accordance with human rights standards, irrespective of their immigration status. Such support should be linguistically and culturally appropriate. Victims should be provided with information about their rights and empowered to claim those rights. They should be given support and protection, including legal, psychological, medical and social assistance; access to shelters; and compensation for damages. Efforts to assess the impact of measures taken should be enhanced.

53. While States are making some efforts to collect data on gender and migration and to improve the knowledge base on violence against women in general, specific data on violence against women migrant workers is needed including on the different forms of violence, perpetrators and the context in which the violence takes place, be it the home, workplace or detention facility. Such data would facilitate the development of national policies and programmes, monitor their impact and assess progress in addressing violence against women migrant workers. Data collection and analysis should therefore be accelerated and qualitative research intensified to facilitate improved understanding and more effective responses to violence against women migrant workers.

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General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/52. It discusses recent trends in the further strengthening within the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. In addition, the report contains information received from Governments on the subject.

* A/64/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/52 entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development". In paragraph 1 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the Organization in the field of the disarmament-development relationship, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.[1] In paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. Furthermore, in paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries. This information is contained in section III below.

II. Strengthening further the role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship

3. In recent years, the United Nations has increasingly focused on issues pertaining to the relationship between disarmament and development. Examples include the broad approach to the issue of small arms which the Secretary-General presented to the Security Council last year (S/2008/258), the emphasis on a comprehensive approach in mine action (see e.g. resolution 62/307), and the support the United Nations is giving to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, adopted in Dublin on 30 May 2008 (see resolution 63/71).

4. Member States themselves are also giving increased attention to the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations framework. Earlier this year, they embarked on discussions on a possible Arms Trade Treaty (on the basis of resolution 63/240). Issues pertaining to development were frequently raised during the two sessions in 2009 of the Open-ended Working Group established to discuss this possible new instrument. Four more sessions of the Open-ended Working Group are planned in the coming two years.

5. For countries in the midst of conflict as well as States in a post-conflict phase and nations otherwise nominally "at peace", the destabilizing influence of links between armed violence, poor control over the trade in arms and ammunition, the traffic in illicit drugs, weak institutions, corruption and the lack of good governance is increasingly recognized. The United Nations needs to develop comprehensive answers to those combined challenges and has been doing just that. An important

[1] United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

example would be the new generation of multidimensional United Nations peacekeeping operations that have emerged, deployed as part of a broader international effort to assist countries making the transition from conflict to sustainable peace. Current disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts within such operations focus on creating a secure and stable environment in which the process of recovery and peacebuilding can begin. Typically, in close coordination with the peacekeeping operation, other United Nations agencies support the critical reintegration process, which aims to provide demobilized former combatants with sustainable livelihoods.

6. The Security Council held an open debate on collective security and armament regulation on 19 November 2008, which centred in part on Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations carrying the important objective of the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources. The presidential statement issued after the debate significantly stressed the Council's concern at increasing global military expenditure (S/PRST/2008/43). It urges all States to devote as many resources as possible to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

7. Since 1981, Member States have been providing information on their military spending through the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. Under this instrument, Governments are called upon to annually report to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available. The United Nations collects this information and makes it public. Thus far, more than 120 States have reported to the instrument at least once. Significantly, for the first time since the instrument's inception, the General Assembly has moved to establish a group of governmental experts, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to review the operation and further development of the instrument in 2010-2011 (resolution 62/13).

8. Another example of the increased attention to the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations is the resolution the General Assembly adopted entitled "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence" (resolution 63/23). This resolution stresses the need for a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed violence, with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development. It makes reference to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development of 7 June 2006 (A/63/494, annex I) , which aims at framing the scope and dimension of the problem of armed violence, developing effective projects and monitoring progress. As the Secretary-General has stated, developing measurable goals on armed violence towards 2015 will offer the opportunity to integrate security-related themes into the possible follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals (S/2008/258).

9. The above initiatives and processes illustrate the growing significance of the relationship between disarmament and development for the United Nations and its Member States. In particular, since the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), in which world leaders recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, the importance of this link has become widely accepted. The main existing mechanisms for coordination on these issues within the United Nations are the Mine Action Team, the Coordinating Action on Small Arms Mechanism and the Inter-Agency

Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, which aim to ensure that the relationship between disarmament and development is covered in their respective areas through involvement of all relevant actors from within the United Nations system.

10. The above developments and processes illustrate the lasting commitment of the United Nations — in accordance with the action programme of the final document of the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development — to promote an interrelated perspective on disarmament and development within the overall objective of promoting international peace and security.

III. Information received from Governments

11. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 6 of resolution 63/52 to the Secretary-General, a note verbale dated 10 April 2009 was sent to Member States seeking their views (see para. 2 of this report). To date, Cuba, Lebanon, Panama, the Philippines and Qatar have submitted information to the Secretariat. Any further replies received will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[7 July 2009]

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 63/52, invited all Member States to continue providing the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries. In reply to this invitation, the Government of the Republic of Cuba has the following considerations to communicate.

The global character of the deep economic, social, food, energy and environmental crisis affecting us means that the relationship between general and complete disarmament and development is becoming increasingly relevant by the day. That in this international situation global military expenditures should continue to climb while the problems due to economic and social underdevelopment, poverty and squalor deteriorate is disastrous.

Thirty years ago, in 1979, the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, warned about the dire consequences that would be reaped when more than 300 billion dollars were being spent on arms at a time when the underdeveloped countries had an external debt of a similar amount. Nothing has been done, of course, and since then the situation has grown dramatically worse.

While economies, especially in developing countries, were being bled dry, global military expenditure increased by 4 per cent in 2008 over 2007 and is now 1.46 billion dollars. This harmful trend has persisted since the beginning of this century, and over the past 10 years expenditure on arms has increased by 45 per cent in the world as a whole.

Far from decreasing, budgets for military activities are increasing at absurd rates. In contrast, reductions of budgets for social, educational or health programmes would appear to be in vogue. The number of unemployed in the world could rise to 230 million in 2009; and in 2008, in just one year, the hungry of the world increased from 854 million to 963 million.

The proposal which Cuba made some years ago regarding the establishment of a fund to meet the pressing economic and social development requirements of needy countries has become much more important; the fund would be managed by the United Nations and would be financed by resources equal to at least half of current military expenditure. This action, in terms of value added, could be considered a confidence-boosting factor and would be a crucial measure for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. According to United Nations estimates, the spending of 80 billion dollars a year for a decade would suffice to conquer poverty and hunger and remedy the lack of health services, education and housing throughout the world.

Cuba again reiterates its firm support for the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, held in September 1987, which included the international commitment to allocate a portion of the resources released through disarmament for purposes of socio-economic development. It also renews its endorsement of the discussion of this matter in the General Assembly and the implementation of the recommendations in the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[6 July 2009]

In response to your letter regarding the aforementioned subject, the Ministry of Defence wishes to affirm that:

Lebanon has consistently supported international instruments on disarmament in general, and on weapons of mass destruction in particular because they pose a threat to international peace and security. Expenditure on such weapons absorbs resources that could instead be allocated to development in its various forms.

Lebanon is affected by armed violence, and needs every available form of assistance and support to alleviate the problem. Nonetheless, Lebanon strives to foster economic and social development by every available means, despite its difficult military and security situation, and despite the intensive operations being carried out by the Lebanese Army, both within the country and on its borders, in implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

This subject is of concern to some other Ministries and you may wish to solicit their opinions.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[7 July 2009]

In special situations, countries make financial investments to cover military costs; this causes environmental damage and economic loss, detracting from national development. The United Nations, looking to establish a balance between the two situations, relies on the implementation of resolutions as a regulatory measure. In this regard, Panama is conscientious about implementing United Nations proposals, the goals established in the Millennium Declaration, and the provisions of various treaties, including the Treaty of Tlatelolco, relating to nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, among others. Our Constitution states that Panama cannot have an army and the Government may, with the permission of the executive branch, possess arms. This provision reaffirms our neutrality and our duty to maintain unimpeded transit along the Panama Canal, ensuring security for the entire international community. To this end, we have established regulations through laws and import restrictions on arms.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[25 June 2009]

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines initiated the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programs (4Ps) — an innovative poverty reduction strategy that provides grants to extremely poor households to improve their health, nutrition and education, particularly of children aged 0-14, provided they comply with the program's conditionalities. 4Ps provides social assistance through cash provision to the poor to alleviate their needs and addresses the intergenerational poverty cycle through human capital investment.

DSWD is also currently implementing the joint project with the World Food Programme, "*Emergency Operations Philippines-Assistance to Conflict-Affected Mindanao*". This program supports the peace process by addressing the food security needs of the vulnerable in conflict-affected areas, as well as promoting education, health, and social development. Furthermore, the *"Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services"* (KALAHI-CIDSS) is the Philippine Government's flagship poverty alleviation project which aims to empower communities and enhance their participation in local governance and community projects that reduce poverty.

Moreover, DSWD implemented a program for rebel returnees in support of disarmament and arms limitation in 1987 to 1992 called the *Social Integration program (SIP) for Former Rebels*. The DSWD sits as a member of the National Committee on Social Integration -- the program's policymaking body. The SIP, which is the Philippine version of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, is being implemented by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). It is also the succession program of the National Reconciliation and

Development Program. In addition to this, under the SIP, former rebels receive the following:

1. Compensation for surrendered firearms, courtesy of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the Department of National Defence;

2. Immediate cash assistance courtesy of OPAPP; and

3. Socio-economic and psychosocial assistance.

Where viable, the Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran and other basic social services are provided to former rebels in coordination with local social workers. The DSWD is the designated lead agency for the healing and reconciliation component of the SIP.

Lastly, in the case of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa sa Mindanao (RPMM) in Northern Mindanao, the KALAHI-CIDSS projects in certain areas of Lanao Norte benefited the communities of former RPMM rebels.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[20 May 2009]

The State of Qatar enjoys a high level of stability and security, has good relations with all its neighbours, is not involved in regional conflicts and has acceded to all treaties banning weapons of mass destruction. Qatar possesses only conventional weapons, and only such as are necessary for its security given the prevailing conditions in the region. Arms expenditures represent only a small fraction of the national budget. The State focuses its efforts on various aspects of social advancement, including health, education and culture, for all citizens and development projects for the sake of future generations. Development and infrastructure projects of all kinds also receive a great amount of care and attention.